

CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL CONFERENCES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL—Selected Medical Cases—Benjamin Castleman, M.D., Chief, James Homer Wright Pathology Laboratories, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Clinical Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School; and H. Robert Dudley, Jr., M.D., Assistant in Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Instructor in Pathology, Harvard Medical School. Little, Brown & Company, Boston 6, Massachusetts, 1960. 295 pages, \$12.50.

The clinical pathological conference—the C.P.C.—is now an established and integral part of the medical curriculum. In some institutions the C.P.C. is looked on rather as a sporting exercise with the pathologists “out to get” the clinicians. This is, however, a purely secondary objective, the real purpose of the exercise being to keep up the students’ (and the graduates’) interest in continuing to see the morbid anatomy of disease at a time when there would otherwise be little opportunity.

Doctors owe a great debt of gratitude to the *New England Journal of Medicine* for its labors through the years in presenting regularly one or two cases in the form of a C.P.C. These have been prepared with meticulous care and with good judgment. One physician presents the clinical analysis with very little help from others; we have seen C.P.C.’s elsewhere in which ten or more specialists have been called on each to discuss a small specialized point, a ridiculous procedure which leads only to lost motion.

This volume contains reprints of fifty selected cases presented at the C.P.C.’s of the Massachusetts General Hospital over a period of twenty-five years; in many instances the original discussor has added comments many years later.

The introduction sketches the history of the C.P.C. and Dr. Richard Cabot’s part in developing it. The exercise seems promptly to have become popular; at any rate C.P.C.’s under Osler and MacCallum were in full swing at Johns Hopkins as early as 1907 and were made locally famous by the astonishing clinical acumen first of W. S. Thayer and later of L. W. Hamman.

Dr. Castleman and Dr. Dudley have edited the present volume with excellent judgment and it will stand as a fine memorial to those who have become prime movers from Cabot on, in these weekly presentations.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.

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MODERN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE—2nd Edition—Thoroughly Revised—A. J. Fleming, M.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.P., Medical Director, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, and C. A. D’Alonzo, M.D., F.A.C.P., Assistant Medical Director, Medical Division, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Editors. J. A. Zapp, Ph.D., Director, Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicine, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Associate Editor. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa., 1960. 587 pages, \$12.00.

In addition to the editor and his associate editors there are nineteen other contributors to this book, all of whom are on the medical or research staff of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. Seldom has a textbook in medicine been a “family affair” of such proportion. Each member contributes from his field of interest. The book is divided into eight sections, each section having a varying number of chapters dealing with various subjects.

A few years ago this reviewer, along with a number of physicians practicing industrial toxicology, was the guest of the du Pont Company on the occasion of the dedication of its Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicine. There we witnessed the clinician, toxicologist, chemist, pathologist, physiologist, hygienist and biostatistician engaged in an integrated program designed to protect the industrial worker and the public against the hazards of chemical intoxication. Much of this book relates the manner in which this is done.

This reviewer cannot enumerate completely the list of chapter titles. A few of these are: Research; toxicological methods and plant surveys; protective clothing for the chemical industry; immunization in industry; physiology of muscular work; practical application of stress in industrial jobs; rehabilitation of the alcoholic in industry; sanitation, water supply and pollution; safety in industry.

Approximately fifty pages are devoted to mental health, application of psychiatry to industry and emotional factors in skin disease.

In Chapter VIII is found a dictionary of toxic compounds. Here is a most complete listing of innumerable chemicals from acrolein to zinc chloride. Unfortunately this wide gamut does not permit a detailed clinical description of toxic states resulting from undue exposure to the majority of the chemicals listed. Most interesting is the chapter entitled “Emerging Environmental Hazards” with its illuminating consideration of the manner in which the human body copes with small doses of toxic materials. One statement—“kernel toast and charred meat contain traces of well known carcinogens” recalls to the reader’s mind the occasional episodes of unfounded fear in the public mind such as the fairly recent cranberry scare.

Modern Occupational Medicine contains numerous graphs and charts. With but two exceptions the illustrations are confined to the subject of occupational chest diseases. Here the reproduction of x-ray films and histopathologic material is most excellent. The radiographic reproduction *actually* reveals clearly the pathology that exists. This quality is not common to most textbooks.

This book is an excellent ready reference with especial value for plant physicians and particularly so for those engaged in the chemical industry. As previously intimated, the student, general industrial physician and general practitioner will find it lacks, in most instances wherein toxicity is discussed, the complete clinical approach, that is, a consideration of signs, symptoms, treatment and prognosis (estimation of disability).

RUTHERFORD T. JOHNSTONE, M.D.

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ANTISERA, TOXOIDS, VACCINES AND TUBERCULINS IN PROPHYLAXIS AND TREATMENT—Fifth Edition—H. J. Parish, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., Clinical Research Director, Wellcome Foundation Ltd.; formerly Bacteriologist, Wellcome Research Laboratories; and D. A. Cannon, O.B.E., M.B., B.Sc., D.T.M. & H., Medical Adviser, Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent; formerly Chief Pathologist, Federal Medical Department, Nigeria. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland, exclusive U. S. agents, 1961. 288 pages, \$8.50.

This is a “classical” review of biologic products by a scientist who has had very close contact with problems of manufacture, standardization, and development of such materials in England. From the standpoint of the practicing physician, some features of the book will be found “quaint,” e.g., the detailed description how to inject and bleed a horse, with photographs of a horse hooked up to a bottle. Many descriptions of specific products include a good deal of detail which is usually supplied in the United States as “package insert” by the individual manufacturer and which frequently varies with time of supply and source. On the other hand a wealth of valuable information is supplied regarding properties and uses of biologic products which appear to be both accurate and reasonably up to date. I doubt that many physicians will have this book in their offices but I feel it should be available in hospital libraries for ready reference. Few doctors will want to read the entire book but many may want to look up a specific point rapidly.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.